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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLE PRODUCTION IN 1953

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The annual survey of pole production^{1/} in the northern Rocky Mountain area^{2/} shows a decrease in pole output from the previous year. The only species to show an increase was lodgepole pine.

Western redcedar continued to be the leading species, followed by lodgepole pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir, in that order (table 1). Lodgepole pine pole production surpassed that of western larch again after lagging behind for 2 years.

Table 1.--Number of poles produced in 1953

Species	Northern Rocky Mountain Area				Percent
	Montana	North	Northeast	Total	of
	:	Idaho	Washington	:	Total
Western redcedar	4,616	172,225	14,710	191,551	46.3
Lodgepole pine	128,523	0	0	128,523	31.1
Western larch	41,198	33,967	15,080	90,245	21.8
Douglas-fir	2,793	723	0	3,516	0.8
Total	177,130	206,915	29,790	413,835	
Percent	42.8	50.0	7.2		100.0

^{1/} Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Pole and Treating Association. The excellent cooperation of pole-producing companies is greatly appreciated. All known producers were contacted by mail and the production of those missed or who failed to report is believed to be less than 1 percent of the total production.

^{2/} Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and the following counties of northeastern Washington: Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman.

The number of poles produced from sources within the northern Rocky Mountain area in 1953 was 51.1 percent of 1947 peak year production and 83.7 percent of 1952 production. The change in output from 1952 and 1947 is shown in table 2.

Table 2.--Percent change in total pole production 1953 from previous year and peak production year

Species	Change from	
	1952	1947
	- - -	- - -
	Percent	
Western redcedar	-12.0	-17.0
Lodgepole pine	-22.8	-63.4
Western larch	-40.9	-59.3
Douglas-fir	-81.5	-45.7
Total	-16.3	-48.9

The poles reported in tables 1 and 2 were grown in the northern Rocky Mountain area. The processing firms also handle additional poles from the U. S. West Coast and Canada. Subsequent discussion and tabulations in this report refer to these total "marketed" pole numbers.

Since 1947, the year this pole survey began, the total pole output has fluctuated considerably from year to year (table 3) without indicating any definite trend. The total output for the 7-year period 1947-1953 is over 5-1/2 million poles--an important source of income to many people.

Table 3.--Total poles processed in the northern Rocky Mountain area from all sources

Year	Western redcedar	Lodgepole pine	Western larch	Douglas-fir	Total
1947	448,544	375,545	252,205	91,134	^{1/} 1,167,428
1948	384,837	142,490	103,693	43,231	^{1/} 674,251
1949	521,847	186,262	143,888	58,606	910,603
1950	418,982	92,338	90,793	14,154	616,267
1951	283,171	136,628	138,852	39,662	598,313
1952	471,104	104,621	213,336	84,777	873,838
1953	443,570	128,818	90,246	13,218	675,852
Total	2,972,055	1,166,702	1,033,013	344,782	5,516,552

^{1/} Ponderosa pine poles were reported for these years: 1947, 6,557; 1948, 804.

The classification of poles reported by northern Rocky Mountain firms in 1953 is shown in table 4 by species, American Standards Association class, and length. A significant increase in output of certain classes of short lodgepole pine poles is evident. In general, the 1953 production shifted toward shorter poles.

Table 4.--Classification of 1953 pole production by species, A.S.A. class, and length. Northern Rocky Mountain area

Pole length Feet	A.S.A. Class										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	All
Percent of total											
Western redcedar											
25 & shorter	.13	.18	.64	.77	1.26	2.85	2.52	1.34	1.56	.17	11.42
30	.22	.34	.65	1.35	3.30	9.27	5.09	1.59	.53	1/0	22.34
35	.34	.63	1.61	4.28	8.41	6.80	4.77	.24	1/-	0	27.08
40	.35	.79	2.02	5.66	5.35	1.79	.07	0	0	0	16.03
45	.45	.92	2.03	2.89	1.05	.02	0	0	0	0	7.36
50	.57	1.04	1.68	1.88	.15	0	0	0	0	0	5.32
55 & longer	2.26	3.16	3.08	1.94	.01	0	0	0	0	0	10.45
All	4.32	7.06	11.71	18.77	19.53	20.73	12.45	3.17	2.09	.17	100.00
Lodgepole pine											
25 & shorter	.01	.02	.03	.10	.59	1.93	14.40	.76	24.49	17.76	60.09
30	-	.03	.09	.13	.53	2.85	8.80	.13	.97	.48	14.01
35	.02	.03	.13	.70	2.72	7.38	7.69	0	0	.04	18.71
40	.03	.06	.37	1.05	2.13	2.16	.06	0	0	-	5.86
45	.01	.06	.28	.29	.15	.20	0	0	0	0	.99
50	-	.02	.11	.03	.02	0	0	0	0	0	.18
55 & longer	.01	.04	.08	.03	-	0	0	0	0	0	.16
All	.08	.26	1.09	2.33	6.14	14.52	30.95	.89	25.46	18.28	100.00
Western larch											
25 & shorter	.04	.05	.27	.63	1.93	2.97	4.93	.16	4.67	1.55	17.20
30	.14	.23	.50	.81	.79	3.16	3.63	.34	.59	.03	10.22
35	.43	.31	1.89	6.89	9.12	5.99	3.25	.01	.01	0	27.90
40	.54	.80	3.15	6.53	2.14	.48	.01	0	0	0	13.65
45	.29	.62	1.89	2.81	.21	-	0	0	0	0	5.82
50	4.39	5.91	5.45	1.54	.21	0	0	0	0	0	17.50
55 & longer	1.24	2.79	2.99	.68	.01	0	0	0	0	0	7.71
All	7.07	10.71	16.14	19.89	14.41	12.60	11.82	.51	5.27	1.58	100.00
Douglas-fir											
25 & shorter	.04	.58	.10	.18	.24	.13	.03	0	.01	0	1.31
30	.25	.73	.80	1.77	5.19	11.08	13.62	.02	.11	0	33.57
35	.33	1.60	3.76	7.03	8.87	8.49	3.20	.02	0	0	33.30
40	.54	2.47	1.75	4.71	2.32	.19	0	0	0	0	11.98
45	.51	.86	2.01	2.07	.09	0	0	0	0	0	5.54
50	.25	1.08	2.10	1.70	.08	0	0	0	0	0	5.21
55 & longer	1.11	4.04	3.55	.39	0	0	0	0	0	0	9.09
All	3.03	11.36	14.07	17.85	16.79	19.89	16.85	.04	.12	0	100.00
All Species											
25 & shorter	.09	.15	.47	.62	1.20	2.64	4.93	1.06	6.06	3.51	20.73
30	.17	.28	.53	1.07	2.51	7.37	5.74	1.13	.61	.09	19.50
35	.30	.50	1.42	4.02	7.48	6.84	5.07	.16	-	.01	25.80
40	.32	.69	1.87	4.92	4.30	1.65	.06	0	0	-	13.81
45	.35	.71	1.70	2.40	.77	.05	0	0	0	0	5.98
50	.95	1.49	1.89	1.50	.13	0	0	0	0	0	5.96
55 & longer	1.70	2.57	2.54	1.40	.01	0	0	0	0	0	8.22
All	3.88	6.39	10.42	15.93	16.40	18.55	15.80	2.35	6.67	3.61	100.00

1/ Dash (-) indicates less than 0.01 percent; zero (0), no production.

